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Groups of countries in special situations: Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 56 (see A/64/423, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 24th and 38th meetings, on 28 October and 1 December 2009. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/64/SR.24 and 38).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/64/L.7 and A/C.2/64/L.48

2. At the 24th meeting, on 28 October, after the Secretary of the Committee made an oral correction, the representative of the Sudan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries" (A/C.2/64/L.7), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* the Brussels Declaration and Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,
>
> "*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in three parts, under the symbol A/64/423 and Add.1 and 2.

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"*Recalling further* its resolution 61/1 of 19 September 2006 entitled 'Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010',

"*Recalling* its resolution 63/227, in which it decided to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2011 at a high level,

"*Welcoming* the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries held in New York on 29 September 2009,

"*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/31 of 31 July 2009 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

"*Recalling also* the Cotonou Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

"*Recalling further* the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, where it was recognized that the economic and social progress achieved by least developed countries in recent years is being threatened by the global economic and financial crisis and that support for them therefore needs to be increased,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;

"2. *Takes note also* of the progress being made in the preparatory process for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

"3. *Welcomes and accepts with appreciation* the offer of the Government of Turkey to host the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

"4. *Decides* to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in the first half of 2011 for a duration of five days, at a venue and time to be determined in consultation with the host Government;

"5. *Decides also* that the meeting of the intergovernmental preparatory committee envisaged in paragraph 5 of resolution 63/227 will be organized in New York in two parts, in the third quarter of 2010 and the first quarter of 2011, each for five working days;

"6. *Requests* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States as the focal point for the preparations for the Conference, as requested in its resolution 63/227, to ensure timely preparations for the Conference and to further mobilize and coordinate the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system;

"7. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in her capacity as convenor of the United Nations Development Group, in coordination with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to ensure the full involvement of United Nations resident coordinators and country teams in the preparations for the Conference, in particular country-level preparations;

"8. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute to the Trust Fund for the participation of the least developed country representatives in both the preparatory process and the conference itself;

"9. *Recognizes* the importance of the contributions of civil society and the private sector to the Conference and its preparatory process, stresses, in this regard, the need for their active participation, including those from the least developed countries, and invites donors to make appropriate contributions for that purpose;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of concerned organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, to take the necessary measures to intensify their public information efforts and other appropriate initiatives to enhance public awareness in favour of the Conference, including by highlighting its objectives and its significance;

"11. *Emphasizes* the importance of country-level preparations as a critical input to the preparatory process for the Conference and the implementation of and follow-up to its outcome, and calls on the Governments of the least developed countries to submit their reports in a timely manner;

"12. *Requests* the executive secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in close coordination and cooperation with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to provide the necessary substantive and organizational preparations and to organize the regional-level preparatory review meetings in the context of the 2010 annual sessions of their respective commissions, as called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/227;

"13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 as well as on the implementation of the present resolution, including a report on the state of the substantive, organizational and logistic preparations for the Conference."

3 At its 38th meeting, on 1 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries" (A/C.2/64/L.48), submitted by the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Dragan Mićić (Serbia), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.7.

4. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Chairperson, the Committee agreed to waive rule 120 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and proceeded to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.48.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications arising from draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.48.

6. Also at its 38th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.48 (see para. 8).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.48, draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.7 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Brussels Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[2] adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3]

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[4]

Recalling its resolution 61/1 of 19 September 2006, entitled "Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010",

Recalling also its resolution 63/227 of 10 March 2009, in which it decided to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2011 at a high level,

Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration[5] adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries held in New York on 29 September 2009,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/31 of 31 July 2009 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

Recalling also the Cotonou Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[6] as an initiative owned and led by the least developed countries,

Recalling further the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,[7] where it was recognized that the economic and social progress achieved by the least developed countries in recent years is being threatened by the global economic and financial crisis and that, in order to adequately respond to the crisis, developing countries, especially the least developed countries, will need a larger share of any additional resources, both short-term liquidity and long-term development financing,

Reaffirming that the Programme of Action for the decade 2001-2010 constitutes a fundamental framework for a strong global partnership, whose goal is

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[1] A/CONF.191/13, chap. I.

[2] *Ibid.*, chap. II.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

[4] See resolution 60/1.

[5] A/C.2/64/3, annex.

[6] A/61/117, annex I.

[7] Resolution 63/303, annex.

to accelerate sustained economic growth, sustainable development and poverty eradication in the least developed countries,

Urging the least developed countries to strengthen country ownership in the implementation of the Programme of Action by, inter alia, translating its goals and targets into specific measures within their national development frameworks and poverty eradication strategies, including, where they exist, poverty reduction strategy papers, promoting broad-based and inclusive dialogue on development with relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, and enhancing domestic resource mobilization and aid management,

Urging also development partners to fully implement, in a timely manner, commitments in the Programme of Action, and to exercise individual best efforts to continue to increase their financial and technical support for its implementation,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;[8]

2. *Also takes note* of the progress being made in the preparatory process for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

3. *Welcomes and accepts with appreciation* the offer of the Government of Turkey to host the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

4. *Decides* to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in the first half of 2011 for a duration of five days, from within existing resources, at a venue and time to be determined in consultation with the host Government;

5. *Also decides* that the meeting of the intergovernmental preparatory committee envisaged in paragraph 5 of resolution 63/227 will be organized in New York in two parts, during the periods from 10 to 14 January 2011 and from 18 to 25 April 2011, each of five working days;

6. *Requests* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, as the focal point for the preparations for the Conference, as requested in its resolution 63/227, to ensure effective, efficient and timely preparations for the Conference and to further mobilize and coordinate the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system;

7. *Requests* the organizations of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional commissions, the specialized agencies, and funds and programmes, and invites the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and other relevant international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to provide necessary support and actively contribute to the preparatory process and to the Conference itself;

[8] A/64/80-E/2009/79 and Corr.1.

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, as appropriate, the full involvement of resident coordinators and country teams in preparations for the Conference, in particular in country- and regional-level preparations;

9. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute to the Trust Fund for the participation of representatives of the least developed countries in both the preparatory process and the Conference itself;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of the contributions of all relevant stakeholders, including parliaments, civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to the Conference and its preparatory process, stresses, in this regard, the need for their active participation, including those from the least developed countries, and invites donors to make appropriate contributions for that purpose;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of concerned organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to take the necessary measures to intensify their public information efforts and other appropriate initiatives to enhance public awareness in favour of the Conference, including by highlighting its objectives and its significance;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of country-level preparations as a critical input to the preparatory process for the Conference and the implementation of and follow-up to its outcome, and calls on the Governments of the least developed countries to submit their reports in a timely manner;

13. *Requests* the executive secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in close coordination and cooperation with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to provide the necessary substantive and organizational preparations and to organize the regional-level preparatory review meetings in the context of the annual sessions of 2010 of their respective commissions, as called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/227;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 as well as on the implementation of the present resolution, including a report on the state of the substantive, organizational and logistic preparations for the Conference.